

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

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INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, AFIN, IAEA, US, UR

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF US ASSESSMENT RATE IN IAEA - USSR

REF: STATE 187225 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND USSR MISSIONS (OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTED SEPT), MISSION RAISED WITH SOVIET RESREP, AMBASSADOR ARKADIEV, QUESTION OF CONSIDERATION BY 18TH IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE OF AGENCY'S SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR 1975.

2. UPON MENTION OF SUBJECT, ARKADIEV STATED AT ONCE THAT 1975 SCALE WAS QTE NOT GOOD FOR US UNQTE. HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT USSR WOULD TAKE SAME POSITION ON THIS ISSUE (PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO TREATMENT IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN UN FAMILY), AND WOULD NOT CHANGE IT. AMBASSADOR PORTER HOPED THAT GC COMMITTEE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF 1975 SCALE COULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM

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OR AVOIDED ENTIRELY IN ORDER TO AVOID UNHAPPY PROSPECT OF

OFFERING LDC'S OPENING TO RENEW DISCUSSION OF AND ATTACKS ON SAFEGUARDS FINANCING FORMULA, AS ASPECT OF AGENCY SCALE. ARKADIEV AVOIDED DIRECT RESPONSE TO THIS, CHANGING SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: FROM EVIDENT REACTIONS OF ARKADIEV AND HIS NUMBER-TWO MAN, WHO IS FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, QUESTIONS POSED BY SCALE OF ASSESSMENT FOR 1975, WHICH INCLUDES A REDUCTION IN US BASE RATE OF ASSESSMENT, CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO THEM. EXPRESSIONS ON BOTH FACES REFLECTED EXTREME DISTASTE FOR DISCUSSING ISSUE, EVEN BEFORE MISSION MADE ANY SPECIFIC MENTION OF US REDUCTION. IN VIEW OF GENERALLY FRANK AND CLOSELY COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND USSR MISSIONS TO IAEA, SUCH RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS A TOUCHY QUESTION ARISES IN OUR EXPERIENCE, MOSTLY FROM SITUATION WHERE MISSION HAS INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW COUCHED IN TERMS CATEGORIC ENOUGH AND OF NATURE SUCH AS NOT RPT NOT TO BE WELCOME TO US AND WHICH SOVIET MISSION FEELS POWERLESS TO HAVE ALTERED. END COMMENT.

4. FROM THIS, OUR ASSESSMENT IS FOLLOWING: SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY FEEL COMPELLED TO PUT FORMAL STATEMENT ON RECORD OPPOSING US REDUCTION IN 1975 AGENCY SCALE, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT THEIR VIENNA REPS WILL UNDERPLAY ITS PRESENTATION TO MAXIMUM EXTENT THAT THEY CAN. EXACT CONTENT OF STATEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE DICTATED BY FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES IN MOSCOW. IN EVENT ISSUE CAME TO VOTE, OUR GUESS FROM THIS BRIEF ENCOUNTER IS THAT USSR WOULD PROBABLY CAST INSTRUCTED VOTE AGAINST SCALE PURELY ON GROUNDS OF US REDUCTION, AND WE FEEL IT QUITE LIKELY THAT THIS WOULD MEAN NOT ONE VOTE AGAINST SCALE BUT AT LEAST 13, I.E., ENTIRE SOCIALIST GROUP.

5. MISSION STILL HAS NO RPT NO OVERT INDICATION FROM ANY SOURCE THAT SCALE WILL BE TREATED IN OTHER THAN NORMAL, ROUTINE MANNER. HOWEVER, LIKELIHOOD OF THIS WOULD BE VERY CONSIDERABLY INCREASED IF USSR COULD SIMPLY BRING ITSELF TO REMAIN SILENT ON QUESTION, IN INTERESTS OF NOT RPT NOT STARTING A DISCUSSION WHICH COULD VERY EASILY GET OUT OF CONTROL AND BACKFIRE ON SAFEGUARDS FINANCING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASPECTS WHICH US AND USSR SHARE STRONG MUTUAL INTEREST IN PROTECTING. IN SUCH EVENT, WE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO BUT HOPE AND PRAY THAT ANY ONE OF ABOUT TWO DOZEN POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS, LARGELY LDC'S, DID NOT RPT NOT INSIST ON VOTE WHICH NEGATIVE SOCIALIST VOTES WOULD MAKE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US, AT BEST. PORTER

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